

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An off-the-road tire (10) having comprising: a radially outer tread (12) having a plurality of elongated lugs (40, 42), ~~the elongated lugs (40, 42)~~ having a maximum tread depth (D) as measured from a radially outer surface of the elongated lug inwardly to an inner tread (13), the inner tread (13), in combination with the elongated lugs (40, 42), form a plurality of soil discharge channels (60) to discharge soil, the tire (10) having a plurality of triangular-shaped tread elements interposed between the elongated lugs (40, 42), the tread elements (80) ~~having three or more sides (83, 84, 85, 86) extending from the inner tread surface to a radially outermost surface, the surface~~ having a maximum depth (d), (d) being less than (D), ~~at least one side (83, 84, 85 or 86) of the tread elements being substantially parallel to an adjacent elongated lug (40, 42), characterized in that~~ and the traction tread elements are positioned in an opening at an axially inner location (61) where the soil discharge channels (60) merge in the center portion of the tread (12).
2. (currently amended) The off-the-road tire (10) of claim 1 wherein one or more sides of the tread elements (80) are radially inclined at an angle β , β being equal or greater than 8° .
3. (currently amended) The off-the-road tire (10) of claim 1 or 2 wherein the elongated lugs (40, 42) have curved leading edges (67) and trailing edges (68).
4. (currently amended) The off-the-road tire (10) of claim 1 wherein the tire (10) has blocks (44) and the inner tread (13), in combination with the elongated lugs (40, 42) and the blocks 44 form openings at axially outer locations (62) to discharge soil, interposed in front of and substantially at the same axial location ~~axially~~ with these openings (62) are one or more ~~tread~~ traction elements (80) oriented to redirect or divert the discharging soil.
5. (currently amended) The off-the-road tire (10) of claim 4 wherein each traction element (80) has one side (83, 84, 85 ~~or 86~~) having a concave curvature.

6. (currently amended) The off-the-road tire (10) of claim 2 wherein the radially outer surface (82) of the tread elements (80) occupies an area at least .25 square inches (~~mm~~²).

7. (currently amended) The off-the-road tire (10) of claim 1 is an ATV tire.

8. (currently amended) The off-the-road tire (10) of claim 7 has a carcass (30) reinforced by a ply structure (38) having two or more bias angled plies.

9. (new) The off-the-road tire of claim 4 wherein said traction element has a maximum depth less than said maximum tread depth D.

10. (new) An ATV tire comprising: a radially outer tread having a plurality of elongated lugs having a maximum tread depth (D) as measured from a radially outer surface of the elongated lug inwardly to an inner tread, the inner tread, in combination with the elongated lugs, form a plurality of soil discharge channels, at least one of said elongated lugs having an enlarged circumferentially extending lug head lying on the equatorial plane of the tire, the tire having a plurality of tread elements interposed between the elongated lugs, the tread elements having three or more sides extending from the inner tread surface to a radially outermost surface, the radially outermost surface having a maximum depth (d) less than (D), and the tread elements are positioned in an opening at an axially inner location where the soil discharge channels merge in the center portion of the tread.

11. (new) The ATV tire of claim 10 wherein at least one side of the tread elements is substantially parallel to an adjacent elongated lug.

12. (new) The ATV tire of claim 10 wherein the soil discharge channels are joined to define a continuous soil discharge channel.

13. (new) The ATV tire of claim 10 wherein the tire has a net to gross ratio of less than 25%.

14. (new) The ATV tire of claim 10 wherein the tread elements are triangular in shape.

15. (new) The ATV tire of claim 10 wherein a tread element is positioned in an exit of said soil discharge channel.

16. (new) The off-the-road tire of claim 10 wherein said tread element has a curved side.